

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01     DACCA 04676 220758Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-06 OMB-01 /058 W  
-----128738 220914Z /15

R 220500Z AUG 77  
FM AMEMBASSY DACCA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5881  
INFO AMCONSUL CALCUTTA  
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD  
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI  
CINCPAC HONOLULU

C O N F I D E N T I A L DACCA 4676

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PGOV, BG  
SUBJECT: DACCA MUNICIPAL POLLS POSTPONED AGAIN

REFS: A. DACCA 4577; B. DACCA 4249

1. THE DACCA MUNICIPAL (POURASHAVA) ELECTIONS, SCHEDULED TO BE HELD AUGUST 28 AFTER ONE POSTPONEMENT, HAVE NOW BEEN POSTPONED AGAIN, AND WILL BE HELD ON SEPTEMBER 25 UNLESS ANOTHER REASON IS FOUND FOR FURTHER DELAY. ACCORDING TO AN ANNOUNCEMENT AUGUST 19, THE BDG "IN DEFERENCE TO PUBLIC WISHES", REQUESTED THE ELECTION COMMISSION TO POSTPONE THE ELECTIONS UNTIL AFTER RAMADAN, THE HOLY MONTH OF FASTING FOR MUSLIMS.

2. COMMENT: THE DACCA ELECTIONS ARE BEING JUGGLED LIKE A HOT POTATO. THE ELECTIONS HAD ALREADY BEEN POSTPONED ONCE. ADDITIONALLY, DACCA WAS MADE AN EXCEPTION TO THE COUNTRY-WIDE SYSTEM OF DIRECT ELECTION OF CHAIRMEN (REF B);  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02     DACCA 04676 220758Z

PATENTLY, THIS CHANGE RESULTED FROM CONCERN THAT THE "MAYOR" OF DACCA WOULD, IF ELECTED AT LARGE, BE AUTOMATICALLY A POTENTIALLY POWERFUL FIGURE POLITICALLY (EVEN IF LEGALLY POWERLESS) AND A POSSIBLE FOCUS OF OPPOSITION TO ZIA. OBSERVERS HAVE GRETTEED THIS MOST RECENT POSTPONEMENT WITH UNCONCEALED SKEPTICISM, POINTING OUT THAT THE OBSERVANCE OF RAMANDAN SHOULD NOT IN ITSELF HINDER THE POLLING; "IT IS NO HARDER TO VOTE THAN

TO WORK" SUMS UP THE SENTIMENTS OF MANY. THERE IS A GROWING FEELING THAT THE MARTIAL LAW ADMINISTRATION (MLA) IS SIMPLY WARY OF HOLDING ANY ELECTION IN DACCA, TRADITIONALLY A HIGHLY POLITICIZED CITY. (IT IS NOTED THAT ZIA FOR ALL HIS TRAVELS, BOTH IN CONNECTION WITH THE REFERENDUM AND OTHERWISE, HAS NEVER SPOKEN TO A PUBLIC MEETING IN DACCA.) ELECTION POSTERS ARE NOW UP ALL OVER TOWN AND THE MLA, COMMITTED TO THE ELECTIONS, PRESUMABLY WILL HAVE TO FACE THE MUSIC SOMETIME OR TAKE THE RISK THAT THE "DEPRIVED" CITIZENS OF DACCA WILL EXPRESS THEIR POLITICAL VIEWS IN OTHER WAYS.  
BERGESEN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** LOCAL ELECTIONS, MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 22-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977DACCA04676  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770302-0406  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** DACCA  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1977/newtext/t19770838/aaaabgdo.tel  
**Line Count:** 74  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** a976fa56-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 77 DACCA 4577, 77 DACCA 4249  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 22-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 1531264  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** DACCA MUNICIPAL POLLS POSTPONED AGAIN  
**TAGS:** PGOV, BG  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/a976fa56-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009